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IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Irene FREUDENSCHUSS-REICHL (Austria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled:

> "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development:
>
> "(a) Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa;
>
> "(b) Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
>
> "(c) Sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas: United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 36th to 43rd, 46th and 47th meetings, on 19, 23, 24, 26 and 29 November and 3, 9 and 10 December 1993. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/48/SR.36-43, 46 and 47). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 8 and 11 to 13 October (see A/C.2/48/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 on the institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/48/442);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (A/48/563);

(c) Letter dated 28 May 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the press communiqué issued by the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at its meeting held in Bali, Indonesia, from 10 to 13 May 1993 (A/48/182);

(d) Letter dated 4 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final document of the third Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (A/48/291-S/26242);

(e) Letter dated 27 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Joint Communiqué of the Twenty-sixth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (A/48/294-S/26247);

(f) Letter dated 11 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (A/48/309);

(g) Letter dated 9 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Document of the Meeting of the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 10 to 13 May 1993 (A/48/338);

(h) Letter dated 12 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting documents adopted by the twenty-first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (A/48/396-S/26440);

(i) Letter dated 9 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communiqué issued by the nineteenth meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Caribbean Community (A/48/401);

(j) Letter dated 22 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Joint Declaration of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and

of Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova on Questions of Environmental Protection (A/48/427);

(k) Letter dated 6 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 adopted at their seventeenth annual meeting (A/48/485);

(l) Letter dated 21 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final document of the meeting on locust control, held at Algiers on 27 September 1993 (A/48/552);

(m) Letter dated 15 October 1993 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 30 September 1993 (A/C.2/48/4);

(n) Letter dated 4 November 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Emergency Locust Control Plan drawn up at the ad hoc Sahel/Maghreb meeting on locust control held at Tunis on 1 and 2 September 1993 (A/C.2/48/6);

(o) Letter dated 16 November 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/48/10);

(p) Letter dated 22 November 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/48/11).

Item 99 (a) Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (A/48/226 and Add.1);

(b) Letter dated 28 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Limassol Commonwealth Communiqué adopted at the Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Countries of the Commonwealth, held at Limassol, Cyprus, from 21 to 25 October 1993 (A/48/564).

Item 99 (b) Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

(a) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/48/36); 1/

(b) Letter dated 28 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Limassol Commonwealth Communiqué adopted at the Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Countries of the Commonwealth, held at Limassol, Cyprus, from 21 to 25 October 1993 (A/48/564).

Item 99 (c) Sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas: United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

Report of the Secretary-General (A/48/479).

4. At the 36th meeting, on 19 November, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and by the Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs (see A/C.2/48/SR.36).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.38

5. At the 41st meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" (A/C.2/48/L.38).

6. At the 47th meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution and orally revised its operative paragraph 1 by deleting, in the first line, the words "in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change", and, at the end of the paragraph, inserting the words "subject to the applicable provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.38, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 29, draft resolution I).

1/ To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/48/36).

B. Draft decision A/C.2/48/L.41

8. At the 46th meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), introduced a draft decision entitled "Reports requested in General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187" (A/C.2/48/L.41).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/48/L.41 without a vote (see para. 30).

C. Draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.46

10. At the 42nd meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development" (A/C.2/48/L.46).

11. At the 46th meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), informed the Committee of the results of informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.46 without a vote (see para. 29, draft resolution II).

Item 99 (a) Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

A. Draft resolution contained in the annex to decision 2/4 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/48/226/Add.1, appendix II)

13. At the 46th meeting, on 9 December, the Committee recommended for adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session the draft resolution contained in the annex to decision 2/4 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, contained in document A/48/226/Add.1, appendix II (see para. 29, draft resolution III).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/48/L.47 and L.80

14. At the 43rd meeting, on 3 December, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Canada, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine, introduced a draft resolution

entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in the monitoring of global environment problems" (A/C.2/48/L.47), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 44/244 of 22 December 1989 and 46/217 of 20 December 1991 on international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergency,

"Recalling the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 2/ and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 3/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

"Taking note of decision 16/37 of 31 May 1991 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies, 4/ and decision 17/26 of 21 May 1993 on the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance, 5/

"Also taking note of the relevant parts of the reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its thirty-fifth 6/ and thirty-sixth sessions 7/ in particular, in which the Committee noted the importance of remote sensing by satellites for monitoring the Earth's environment and, in particular, for studying and monitoring global change,

"Taking into account the ongoing activities of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites in support of global environment monitoring and related applications,

"Bearing in mind the importance of the participation of relevant organs, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, in Earthwatch, in particular in its environmental monitoring programmes, and the need for early warning capabilities in those programmes,

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2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex II.

3/ Ibid., resolution 1, annex I.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/46/25), annex.

5/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/48/25), annex.

6/ Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/47/20).

7/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/48/20).

"Recognizing the need to make Earthwatch a more efficient instrument for environmental sensing and assessment of all elements influencing the global environment in order to ensure a balanced approach in serving, in particular, the needs of developing countries,

"Recognizing also the potential and importance of current available methods, technologies and techniques of monitoring, assessment and anticipation of global environmental problems, including remote sensing and monitoring from outer space,

"1. Invites Governments, and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and other relevant entities to review, as appropriate, their contribution to international cooperation in environmental monitoring, including remote sensing and evaluation from outer space, and provide appropriate support for such activities within existing resources;

"2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare in collaboration with all relevant entities within and outside the United Nations system for submission to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its eighteenth session, a report on the Programme's activities in environmental monitoring, containing proposals and recommendations within the context of Agenda 21 and a review of Earthwatch, taking into account the decisions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventeenth session;

"3. Invites the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider the above-mentioned report at its eighteenth session and submit its conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Economic and Social Council."

15. At its 47th meeting, on 10 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.47 (A/C.2/48/L.80).

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.80 without a vote (see para. 29, draft resolution IV).

17. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.80, draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.47 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

Item 99 (b) Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Draft resolutions A/C.2/48/L.12 and L.78

18. At the 39th meeting, on 23 November, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Global Conference on

the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/48/L.12), and orally revised it by deleting the words "Report of the" in the second line of operative paragraph 11. The draft resolution, as orally revised, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 8/ and in particular Agenda 21, 9/ chapter 17, section G, relating to the sustainable development of small island developing States,

"Recalling also its resolution 47/186 of 22 December 1992 on specific measures in favour of small island developing countries,

"Reaffirming its resolution 47/189 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"Reaffirming, in particular, the goals and objectives of the Conference identified in paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 47/189, and mindful of the important contribution that their successful accomplishment could make to the promotion of sustainable and environmentally sound development with respect to small island developing States,

"Stressing that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that small island developing States will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the cooperation and assistance of the international community,

"Also stressing the need for the intergovernmental preparatory process for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to be able to accomplish its work before the Conference itself,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on its organizational and first sessions; 10/

8/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda).

9/ Ibid., vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex II.

10/ A/48/36.

"2. Decides to convene the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Barbados from 25 April to 6 May 1994;

"3. Urges once again that representation at the Conference be at the highest possible level;

"4. Decides to convene one day of pre-Conference consultations at the venue of the Conference on 24 April 1994;

"5. Decides also that the first session of the Preparatory Committee should be resumed for a period of five working days, from 7 to 11 March 1994, to complete the preparatory work assigned to it in paragraph 11 of resolution 47/189, including the draft programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States contained in annex III of the report of the Preparatory Committee and that adequate facilities should be made available for this purpose within the approved budget limit set for the biennium 1994-1995;

"6. Endorses decisions 1 and 4 of the Preparatory Committee concerning the participation of associate members of regional commissions and of non-governmental organizations, including major groups, in the Conference and its preparatory process; 11/

"7. Also endorses decisions 3 and 13 of the Preparatory Committee, 12/ and decides to transmit the provisional rules of procedure and the provisional agenda to the Conference for adoption;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, and taking into account the submissions he may receive from bilateral, regional and multilateral donor agencies as well as from non-governmental organizations, to ensure the timely submission to the Preparatory Committee, at its resumed session, of the report requested in decision 11 of the Preparatory Committee; 13/

"9. Also requests the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information, to ensure that the goals and purposes of the Conference receive the widest possible dissemination within Member States, non-governmental organizations, and national, regional and international media, with a view to encouraging their active contribution to and support of the Conference and its preparatory process;

"10. Expresses its appreciation for the contributions made to the voluntary fund established for the purpose of assisting small island developing States and the least developed countries to participate fully

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11/ Ibid., part one, chap. V.

12/ Ibid., part two, chap. VII.

13/ Ibid.

and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process, and invites all Member States and organizations in a position to do so to contribute generously to the fund;

"11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled 'Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States', and requests the Secretary-General to submit the report of the Conference to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session."

19. At the 47th meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), introduced a draft resolution submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.12 (A/C.2/48/L.78).

20. The Secretary of the Committee made a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/48/SR.47).

21. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.78 without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution V).

Item 99 (c) Sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high-seas; United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

Draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.44

22. At the 42nd meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Fiji introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks" (A/C.2/48/L.44).

23. At the 47th meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution, and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In the first preambular paragraph, after the words "United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks", the words ("the Conference")" were added;

(b) In operative paragraph 7, second line, after the word "Conference", the rest of the paragraph was deleted;

(c) A new operative paragraph 8 was inserted to read:

"Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the sub-item entitled 'Sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources of the high seas: United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks' under the agenda item entitled 'Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development'."

24. The Secretary of the Committee made a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.2/48/SR.47).

25. The representative of Egypt, also on behalf of Benin, further revised the draft resolution by replacing the words "28 March to 15 April 1994" in operative paragraph 3 with the words "14 to 31 March 1994".

26. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the Chairman made a statement (see A/C.2/48/SR.47)

27. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.44, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 29, draft resolution VI).

28. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Republic of Korea made a statement (see A/C.2/48/SR.47).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

29. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, negotiated under its auspices and opened for signature at Rio de Janeiro on 4 June 1992, during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Noting with satisfaction the progress being made towards fulfilling the requirements for entry into force stipulated in article 23 of the Convention 14/ and the preparatory work undertaken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/195 of 22 December 1992,

Noting further that, in accordance with article 7, paragraph 4, of the Convention, the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention shall be convened by the interim secretariat of the Convention and shall take place not later than one year after the date of entry into force of the Convention,

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14/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

Having considered the recommendation made by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its eighth session regarding the Conference of the Parties 15/ and the related note by the Secretary-General, 16/

Taking into account the basic provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. Decides that the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change shall be held from 28 March to 7 April 1995, subject to the applicable provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

2. Accepts with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Germany to host at Berlin the first session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. Decides to include the first session of the Conference of the Parties in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994-1995.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Dissemination of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 17/ contains fundamental principles for the achievement of sustainable development, based on a new and equitable global partnership,

Conscious of the fact that the dissemination of the principles of the Declaration will contribute to increasing public awareness of the need to take a balanced and integrated approach to development and environment questions,

Bearing in mind its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, in particular paragraph 4 (a) thereof, in which it recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development promote the incorporation of the principles of the Declaration in the implementation of Agenda 21, 18/ and recalling

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15/ A/AC.237/41.

16/ A/48/563.

17/ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution I, annex I.

18/ Ibid., annex II.

paragraphs 32 and 42 of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its first session, 19/

Recalling that the ministers and other participants at the high-level meeting of the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development emphasized the need to promote broad dissemination of the principles of the Declaration at all levels with a view to promoting public awareness regarding sustainable development,

Recalling also chapter 36 of Agenda 21, entitled "Promoting education, public awareness and training",

1. Urges all Governments to promote widespread dissemination of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 17/ at the public and private levels;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Declaration is widely disseminated by the competent organs and bodies of the United Nations system, and that its principles are incorporated in their programmes and processes, in accordance with paragraphs 32 and 42 of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its first session. 19/

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/172 of 19 December 1989, 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and other relevant General Assembly resolutions, as well as decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular the recommendation by which the Conference invited the General Assembly to establish, under its auspices, an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa,

Recalling also its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994,

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19/ E/1993/25/Add.1.

Recalling further that Agenda 21, 20/ chapter 12, in particular paragraphs 12.1-4, recognizes desertification and/or drought as a problem of global dimension, in that it affects one sixth of the world population and one quarter of the total land area of the world and requires a broad response, as set out in paragraph 12.4 of Agenda 21, and that concrete measures have to be taken in all regions, particularly in Africa, within the framework of the convention,

Reiterating the objective that the convention be finalized by June 1994, and that it shall be implemented as soon as possible,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its first and second substantive sessions,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning the progress of the negotiations on the convention, 21/

1. Urges the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, successfully to complete the negotiations by June 1994, in accordance with resolution 47/188;

2. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall hold one session after the adoption of the convention in order to review the situation in the interim period pending its entry into force, in particular with regard to the implementation of provisions adapted to the specific needs of each region;

3. Also decides that the session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee after the adoption of the convention should be held not later than 31 January 1995, and requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements for the functioning of the ad hoc secretariat and the multidisciplinary panel of experts to service that session;

4. Further decides that the negotiating process shall continue to be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the trust fund established pursuant to its resolution 47/188 specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations and administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the possibility of carrying over resources contributed from one fiscal year to the other;

20/ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution I, annex II.

21/ A/48/226 and Add.1.

5. Notes the contributions of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other relevant international organizations dealing with desertification, drought and development to the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the conduct of its mandate, and invites them to continue to provide such support;

6. Notes with appreciation the initial contributions made to the trust fund and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to continue their support for the fund;

7. Invites the international community, in particular the developed countries and other countries in a position to do so, to make voluntary contributions to the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and/or the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office of the United Nations Development Programme and any other relevant international and regional organizations to allow them to assist countries affected by drought and/or desertification in all regions, particularly in Africa, in their preparation for the negotiating process;

8. Notes with appreciation the contributions made to the special voluntary fund established pursuant to its resolution 47/188 to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to contribute generously to the fund;

9. Notes the arrangements made by the Secretary-General and the welcome support of relevant or interested organizations, organs, programmes and concerned agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental, subregional and regional organizations in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, and invites them to continue to participate actively in the work of the Committee in the future;

10. Urges Governments to continue to organize, in close collaboration with the regional commissions and national, subregional and regional organizations, activities to support the process of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, involving, as appropriate, the scientific and industrial communities, trade unions, the relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups;

11. Notes the assistance provided by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to the countries covered under its mandate in their preparations for and participation in the negotiating process and invites the Office to continue to support the Governments concerned and to continue to mobilize resources for this purpose;

12. Also notes the constructive contribution of relevant non-governmental organizations to the success of the negotiating process, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and taking into account procedures used in the process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and encourages them, and particularly non-governmental organizations from developing countries, to continue to contribute to the success of the negotiating process;

13. Reiterates its request to the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to continue to submit progress reports on the negotiations to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and scientific and other institutions concerned;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Strengthening international cooperation in the monitoring of global environmental problems

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 44/224 of 22 December 1989 and 46/217 of 20 December 1991 on international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergency,

Reaffirming also the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 22/ and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 23/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including principle 2 of the Declaration, which states that States have, in accordance with the Charter of

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22/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution I, annex II.

23/ Ibid., annex I.

the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond their national jurisdiction,

Taking note of decision 16/37 of 31 May 1991 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on early warning and forecasting of environmental emergencies, 24/ and decision 17/26 of 21 May 1993 on the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance, 25/

Also taking note of the relevant parts of the reports of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its thirty-fifth 26/ and thirty-sixth sessions 27/ in particular, in which the Committee noted the importance of remote sensing by satellites for monitoring the Earth's environment and, in particular, for studying and monitoring global change,

Taking into account the ongoing activities of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites in support of global environment monitoring and related applications,

Bearing in mind the importance of the participation of relevant organs, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, in Earthwatch, in particular in its environmental monitoring programmes, and the need for early warning capabilities in those programmes,

Recognizing the need to make Earthwatch a more efficient instrument for environmental sensing and assessment of all elements influencing the global environment in order to ensure a balanced approach in serving, in particular, the needs of developing countries,

Recognizing also the potential and importance of current available methods, technologies and techniques of monitoring, assessment and anticipation of global environmental problems, including remote sensing and monitoring from outer space,

1. Invites Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and other relevant entities to review, as appropriate, their contribution to international cooperation in environmental monitoring, including environmentally related remote sensing and data

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24/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/46/25), annex.

25/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/48/25), annex.

26/ Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/47/20).

27/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/48/20).

assessment, and to provide appropriate support for such activities within existing resources;

2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare and to submit to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its eighteenth session a report on the Programme's activities in environmental monitoring, containing proposals and recommendations within the context of Agenda 21 and a review of Earthwatch, taking into account the decisions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventeenth session, in cooperation with relevant entities within the United Nations system and, where appropriate, outside the United Nations system;

3. Invites the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider the above-mentioned report at its eighteenth session and to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Economic and Social Council.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 28/ and in particular Agenda 21, 29/ chapter 17, section G, relating to the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Recalling also its resolution 47/186 of 22 December 1992 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries,

Reaffirming its resolution 47/189 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Reaffirming, in particular, the goals and objectives of the Conference identified in paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 47/189, and mindful of the important contribution that their successful accomplishment could make to the promotion of sustainable and environmentally sound development with respect to small island developing States,

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28/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda).

29/ Ibid., vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex II.

Stressing that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that small island developing States will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the cooperation and assistance of the international community,

Also stressing the need for the intergovernmental preparatory process for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to be able to accomplish its work before the Conference itself,

1. Takes note of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on its organizational and first sessions; 30/

2. Decides to convene the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Barbados from 25 April to 6 May 1994, including a high-level segment on 5 and 6 May;

3. Urges once again that representation at the Conference be at the highest possible level;

4. Decides to convene one day of pre-Conference consultations at the venue of the Conference on 24 April 1994;

5. Also decides that the first session of the Preparatory Committee should be resumed in New York for a period of five working days, from 7 to 11 March 1994, to complete the preparatory work assigned to it in paragraph 11 of resolution 47/189, including the draft programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States contained in annex III to the report of the Preparatory Committee, and that adequate facilities should be made available for this purpose within the approved budget limit set for the biennium 1994-1995;

6. Endorses decisions 1 and 4 of the Preparatory Committee concerning the participation of associate members of regional commissions and of non-governmental organizations, including major groups, in the Conference and its preparatory process; 31/

7. Also endorses decisions 3 and 13 of the Preparatory Committee, 32/ and decides to transmit the provisional rules of procedure and the provisional agenda to the Conference for adoption;

8. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, and taking into account the submissions he may receive from bilateral, regional and multilateral donor

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30/ A/48/36.

31/ Ibid., part one, chap. V.

32/ Ibid., part two, chap. VII.

submission to the Preparatory Committee, at its resumed session, of the report requested in decision 11 of the Preparatory Committee; 33/

9. Also requests the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information, to ensure that the goals and purposes of the Conference receive the widest possible dissemination within Member States, non-governmental organizations and national, regional and international media, with a view to encouraging their active contribution to and support for the Conference and its preparatory process;

10. Expresses its appreciation for the contributions made to the voluntary fund established for the purpose of assisting small island developing States and the least developed countries to participate fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process, and invites all Member States and organizations in a position to do so to contribute generously to the fund;

11. Decides to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" under the item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session the report of the Global Conference.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 47/192 of 22 December 1992, concerning the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks ("the Conference"),

Noting that the Conference held its organizational session in New York from 19 to 23 April 1993, and its second session, also in New York, from 12 to 30 July 1993,

Noting with appreciation that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has agreed to prepare two information papers, one on the precautionary approach and the other on the concept of maximum sustainable yield,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made by the Conference during 1993, 34/

33/ Ibid.

34/ A/48/479.

Taking note of the recommendations of the Conference to the General Assembly, as set forth in the report of the Conference on its second session, 35/ regarding the convening of two further sessions in 1994, required by the Conference in order to complete its work,

Convinced that the widest possible participation in the Conference is important to ensure its success,

1. Notes the progress made by the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

2. Reaffirms that the Conference should complete its work before the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

3. Approves the convening in New York of two further sessions of the Conference, to be held from 14 to 31 March 1994 and from 15 to 26 August 1994, in accordance with the recommendation of the Conference;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide services for these two sessions of the Conference, with facilities enabling the Conference to hold two simultaneous meetings during the sessions;

5. Renews its request to Governments and regional economic integration organizations to contribute to the voluntary fund established in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 47/192 for the purpose of assisting developing countries, especially those most concerned by the subject-matter of the Conference, in particular the least developed among them, to participate fully and effectively in the Conference, and expresses its appreciation for the contributions made to the fund so far;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to circulate to delegations as early as possible the information papers being prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session the final report on the work of the Conference;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources of the high seas: United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks" under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".

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35/ A/CONF.164/16, para. 25 (a).

30. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Reports requested in General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187

The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1993/314 of 29 July 1993, decides to discontinue the reporting requested in Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and on the World Commission on Environment and Development, respectively.